

**Open Hands: Stewardship with Kingdom**  
**The Gift of Hospitality: Open Doors and Open Hearts**

Heavenly Father,

We come before you today in the stillness of our grief.

We thank you for the life of my mother that stood through the storms of static of this world.

I want to pray to keep me away from the same static that I have to deal with at homeless shelters and group homes I had to stay at to get myself on my feet in my economic situations. I continue to ask you to help and stabilize me to keep me away from the static in these present days.

We acknowledge the truth today that the heart can fail when the burdens of ours become too heavy to bear.

We thank you that she is now released from the stress, the family rubble, and the pressure. She is at rest in heaven.

In Jesus name, Amen.

When I started my calling at age 15, I started out as a teacher's aid in the summer youth program for state minimum wage at the time. At the time, minimum wage was \$5.15 an hour. I believe it is a first step for me that I opened my heart to the needy, homelessness and marginalization. I started out mentoring the youth and my hard work discipline came into play. I decided not to carry my mom burdens with stress from the family because my family members are mostly spectators and think they know everything. My family members do stuff to stress you out and I strongly believe my mom knew that when I spoke to her. My true honor is filling my goals and accomplishments to do better. Her heart failure was a signal that the pressure was too high. Now, I am guarding my wellspring. I say I need to do better with hospitality as an ordained man of God because the last time I gave money to help the needy and homeless was in 2021 while I was living in Atlanta. I used to give money to the homeless on the streets freely to help them get food to eat and avoid food insecurity. I had to do a journal assignment from my case manager at Star of Hope Mission in Houston in 2023 while I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program. I had to list ten things in the next thirty days on how I express brotherly love. I was at level five of the Spiritual Recovery Program about to complete the program for October 2023 commencement. I believe her death was a release from external static that is no longer under the weight of the stepfather static and rubble. That is why I believe God called her home on November 18, 2025. She is at peace. I am at peace. I told her that my biological father wanted to call and talk to her, but she did not want to talk to him either. Moving on for me is the highest form of mourning and grieving for me. She told me last summer that I should be living and doing better as a man of God while I was living on the east side of Detroit. Mourning her does not mean standing still in the graveyard. It means running towards the palace and envisioning for me. I am not filling my life with more stress like she did. I am filling the remaining years of my life with her legacy. Your peace is not a public negotiation. It is a private decree. I am blocking my family because of malice. I am filtering the frequency because my flock has 13,402 members and 12,202 in attendance depending on my clarity. I cannot pour my oil if my jar is filled with drama. I am thinking about that with my mother that her jar was always being filled with unexpected drama from family every time I spoke to her. She did not like how my aunt handled my grandmother's recovery after the hospital and blamed my grandmother's loss on her. My mom always complained about my stepfather saying that he was nasty and disgusting based on the way he looked. She always said that she never signed up for any of that. My mom said that she was not happy for so long. When she

told me a lot of stuff on the phone, she was always in the room by herself in another part of the house. She complained and talked about my sister in a stressful way saying she was a disappointment because her life was always a revolving door that had to move back home, no college degree and/or no career. My wake up call in 2011 to remind me to serve on for my purpose and ask if God was my overcoming my weakness and have more compassion to stick to my calling to serve communities with compassion. When I helped the homeless through my volunteer work in the past in NYC, Chicago, Houston and Philadelphia; it was me being a faithful man of God. Nehemiah 58:12, Proverbs 29:18, Matthew 25:35-40, Romans 12:8, Isaiah 58:12, and Ephesians 4:11-12 is my spiritual personality since I was ordained in 2011 and elevated to Bishop in June 2018. I am all about ministry structure, building infrastructure. I am a visionary that thinks long-term but I need to be careful how I plan because I can think too fast. Pastor John Johnson in Houston always told me that when I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston in 2023. I practice righteousness through leadership when I think and focus on housing stability, poverty reduction, economic workshops, and community systems since 2011. I advocated for affordable housing and reducing long waitlists for over ten years because I feel people should not be sitting on waitlists for housing for many years. I advocated ending long-term and short-term homelessness at homeless shelters and group homes for over ten years. I am working on right now to overcome my weakness with my financial situations that continue to put me in a financial bind on some basis with low and limited income. I have to learn how to manage my generosity better as a cheerful giver because I give too much and cause me to be in a financial squeeze to pay my own bills and housing. That is how it always was before the Star of Hope Mission in Houston in 2023. My mother has taught me that I was the only one that was taken her seriously in the household as a child.

Today, I dedicate this message to the enduring legacy of Rev. Jesse Jackson that opened the church doors. He opened boardrooms, ballot boxes and the gates of opportunity. His life reminds us that hospitality is not a weakness. It is a power of compassion. May we build churches, communities and systems that welcome not just the comfortable, but the overlooked. This congregation is growing fast weekly because members and visitors feel embraced and knowledgeable. That is why other pastors told me in the past that they must be preaching the word the right way.

To truly honor his legacy, end with a challenge:

1. How is our church practicing economic hospitality?
2. Are we welcoming the unhoused with dignity?
3. Are we opening leadership roles to those without status?
4. Are we advocating for systematic change?

This congregation has been opening new leadership roles since 2014. The church Volunteer to Work Program will serve as the church economic pillar like the Operation breadbasket. Volunteer to Work Program helps train people for jobs in the private sector that lack the skills and qualifications for jobs to help people do better for themselves in our communities. The program negotiates with management at employers to help them obtain jobs in the private sector after completing months and weeks of job training. Our goal in the community and households is to do better to decrease depression, oppression, mental health, schizophrenia, poverty, crime and violence. The youth generation under 25 years of age can have someone to look up to and admire as mentors, so they can stop being confidence-paralyzed, envious and being inferior to others that are doing better than them. The program audits companies and

volunteers. The program sets the baseline for employers and unemployed to get them back in the workforce and labor market. The program staff goes back to employers to evaluate and find out the people are doing better and still working on the jobs as a trainee and/or employee. The program is like Operation Breadbasket that ask the following questions to employers to provide equal opportunities and give people second chance of opportunities in the private sector:

1. How many unemployed, underemployed and displaced workers do you hire in the community?
2. What will be their salaries?

Rev. Jesse Jackson was a coordinator for his work with Operation Breadbasket in Chicago. I am a coordinator for the mid-south church doing this same work as a man of God and spiritual leader. I am still working on my mom's legacy for doing better for myself right now in the mid-south economically and financially to strengthen my income. I had ushers give you a copy of the covenant that employers must agree to and sign for the Volunteer to Work Program. FedEx Express, HCA Healthcare, AutoZone, International Paper, St. Jude, Amazon, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Walmart, Sam's Club, Williams-Sonoma. The Volunteer to Work Program was implemented in Michigan in 2024 from the congregation to help provide jobs and help more people do better in communities. The Church Homelessness Financial Relief Program is another program operation breadbasket that helped the homeless with financial assistance. Since 2014, the Homelessness Financial Relief Program has moved the homeless in Chicago, Southeast Michigan, Cleveland, Louisville and Houston to the job market. The Homelessness Financial Relief Program helps the homeless end food insecurity. The Homelessness Financial Relief Program provided financial assistance to 100+ families in Uganda and Liberia in 2015, 2024 and 2025 that are living in poverty and helping them avoid food insecurity.

Hospitality is not simply opening our homes. It is opening systems. It is opening doors that have been closed by poverty, racism and exclusion. No one models that more boldly than Rev. Jesse Jackson. Open doors are an access to opportunity. Open our hearts is compassionate for the marginalized. Open tables are an economic exclusion. We think that honoring our parents means carrying their burdens. My mother is free from the stress of the family. The church has provided other operation breadbasket since 2014, such as providing food and clothing from the food pantry and clothes closet, household/utility help, feeding the hungry, and stabilization. The church is not a one way street. The church has already been providing the widow oil to people in communities in Chicago, Cleveland, Louisville, Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Dubuque, Southeast Michigan and Brooklyn.

- Boundaries are not about that. They are all about vessel protection.

*"Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some have unwittingly entertained angels."-Hebrews 13:2*

This scripture is about discernment. The Greek word for hospitality is philoxenia that means lov of a stranger. This scripture links brotherly lov to hospitality. Entertaining angels unawares refer to Genesis 18. Abraham sat at his tent door in the heat of the day and welcomed the travelers. He did not know thy war from the Lord and two angels until they served him. His hospitality locks the prophecy of his son's death. Not every person is a rubble person. Sometimes God sends us an answer in prayer that we do not

recognize. Angels do not always wear wings. They wear needs. Hospitality is a sovereign investment. The thing I like about Star of Hop Mission in Houston is that they had a good structure as a strictly biblical homeless shelter. I like their strict rules in place that really crack down on people to give them structure in their life and know how to live their life biblically. That is not the case at other homeless shelters that I had to stay at temporarily while I do so much moving and traveling around. At Star of Hop Mission in Houston, the staff teaches clients how to be obedient Christians and disciples 24/7 without any worldly idolatry and teaches clients to make decisions by heavenly wisdom, not leaning on their own understanding. They are strictly biblical and do not allow smoking and/or profanity. Staff make sure clients are not living by the flesh and sin outside of chapel services. I continued to meet more people as they came into the program while I was working through the spiritual recovery program. Star of Hop Mission in Houston actually disciplined clients that did not follow their rules by taking serious action and like that structure. It teaches clients how to live by rules and boundaries. I like Star of Hope Mission in Houston rules because they actually check people bags when clients come in and out of the facility. When I was in the spiritual recovery program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston, I never got a write up from violating their rules but other clients did with serious consequences. I like that because it was how I was raised and the type of people to be surrounded by that know how to live by rules and boundaries. I was taught in the household to know right from wrong. That is why a friend told me in his opinion that he believes being in Memphis is not the place for and should be looking elsewhere in the south because he says it is because too many people in Memphis do not obey law and order.

I want you to practice this week on hospitality by holding a door, buying a cup of coffee or offering words of encouragement to someone like a stranger. Angels came down from heaven and helped Lot, Abraham and Gidon. Angels have protected them after they helped and provided hospitality to people. After I became a member of Riceville Mount Olive Baptist Church in October 2023, my weak spiritual gift is hospitality because I do not do enough. I need to do a lot more as a man of God. When I was at Star of Hop Mission in Houston in 2023, I was told by some clients that I needed to remove the walls from a man around me and open myself up to other people more. I want you to look for Gidon in your community that is hiding or struggling to offer them a word of hospitality. Everybody needs to fill their jar with hospitality so God can give you a miracle. Tell the person next to you I want a promotion from God.

- Who is the newest person in the room today?
- Have we served or ignored them?

*“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”-Luke 14:13-14*

The woman has been bent over for 18 years. She looked at the rubble at her feet. Jesus fixed her back. Jesus gave her the ability to look up to the kingdom and heaven. The leader was angry and did not care if a daughter in the community was free. The only card that rules as ignored. The leader did not have the courage to address Jesus directly. The leader spoke to the crowd to shame the woman for being healed. This is rubble at its peak. We need to understand that healing requires contact. People will be mad at you for doing better. You see and hear this mentality at homeless shelters today that is 100% fact. You see and act like haters to others at homeless shelters that represent rubble and the static. People are going

to witness envy and inferiority from others at homeless shelters. My advice to you is that if you know anyone that is homeless living out of a homeless shelter is to do better is stay to themselves. You do not have to make friends with any corrupt or ungodly person. Another piece of advi I want to give to homes people is let God guide you at homeless shelters on who he wants you to be friends with or talk to. You do not have to meet and talk to no one at a homeless shelter still acting and living ungodly, sinful and all about idolatry. You do not have to talk and be friends with somebody that is still dragging you down lower to sin and avoiding you to rise up with heavenly wisdom. We do not need to worry about those people in the world that get mad at us for doing better for ourselves. Do not be a victim. Jsus said that freedom is the highest day of the sabbath. I do not let stress and debt control your heart.

1. Take control of your bank account, schedule and do better.
2. use your extra income to help someone bent over and tell them some sovereign words to help them out.

*“for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in”-Matthew 25:35*

Jesus is explaining that a sovereign nation is not a GDP. it is a vulnerable vessel. The word xenos means stranger. This means displaced, homeless, and shadow citizens that the world ignores. I want you to go out this week to give someone a hand up not a handout by sharing your legacy blueprint.

- Physical and spiritual food
- Proving the living water and financial blueprint
- Providing the invitation

Rev. Jackson practiced Matthew 25 in the public square.

Abraham welcomed the angels in Genesis 18. He ran to greet them. He prepared his best. Hospitality preceded the blessing. Some blessings are waiting at the door, but we must open it. Jesus did not just preach in synagogues. He entered homes. Rev. Jackson said that hospitality is not passive kindness. It is active justice. If someone walks in broken, we will know how to handle the pain and get people back on their feet. We have programs in place in different ministries to help the body. When people open their hearts to people, we listen without judging, making room for differences of opinion, forgiveness. We need open hands hospitality that includes time, resources, advocacy and financial mentorship. We need to learn how to build our Barn and legacy blueprint. I believe people are homeless for so long because they have no Barn or legacy blueprint. Pastors at homeless shelters that have chapel services do not preach enough about this to teach people about the Barn Principle.

*“Now all believed were together, and all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and then among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, breaking bread from house to house, they eat their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor from all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who being saved.”-Acts 2:44-47*

The scripture talks about unity, generosity, sacrifice, home fellowship, joy and growth. When the church opens and opens its hearts, heaven opens its windows. I liked the environment at Star of Hope Mission in Houston better when I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program because I felt like I was in a more spiritual and unified environment where clients did not continue to be sinful and live in sin. More clients were unified to turn their life over to Christ then entered the facility in one of their programs. I feel unified when I am in a church and fellowship environment with members and outside churches because it is not sin and idolatry around me. Ask the person next to you: are you unified? I like worship services and fellowship gatherings where people are willing to be open to share their testimonies on why they decide to seek God in their life and live obedient to God. I like it when people are open to share personal testimony about past hurts and sins that caused them to seek God in their life. Hospitality begins with proximity. You cannot be hospitable from a distance. Hospitality is not coffee in the lobby. It is a connection in the heart. You can sit near people and still be far from them. Hospitality is not about bloodlines. Hospitality is all about the frequency of care. Those who watched your struggle but did not pour any oil. I believe this is what I witnessed in 2011 with my family and did not get any support and financial help. I ended up at Pacific Garden Mission and/or Olive Branch Mission for Chicago in 2011-2015. I witnessed angel unawares in the bible that I had people that showed up in my life that care was more about me than family. People like Pastor Devin Miller came along and were able to help and provide more hospitality to me. I got more care from people outside of my family today and in the past because of the lack of hospitality. My mom gave me money during my struggles but I never liked asking her for money because she did not have any income coming in and knew she had to save money she did have. My family gatherings stopped and people stopped coming together. The family did not accept my way of grief after my mom passed and acted so judgmental and thought they knew it all.

I had a mother and aunt Jacqueline who cared for my grandmother when she was not well. They were only participants on my mother's side of the family. Myron is a spectator today. Many of you are grieving spectators. People who want to be at the funeral but are not at the bedside. My family stopped gathering because the love was clogged with selfishness. To do better for myself, I have to stop looking for hospitality in a house that is always or already cold. Unity is a covenant. We honor our mothers by surrounding ourselves with people who show the grief of hospitality. Distance is not hate. It is healthy. My growing congregation and friends that I talked to today are my gathering. When I was in Star of Hope Mission in Houston in 2023, I was surrounded by people that treated me with more grief. I had more people in the religious community like spiritual leaders and active churchgoing people that treated and talked to me with more grief, not family. My mom was the only one that asked me about how my congregation was going because everyone was spectators. It is time that I met with some or few spirits at homeless shelters that are clients. It proves that more strangers in my life going forward wherever I am far more like an angel for my whole family was the rubble. I want you this week to make a list of brothers and sisters in residence that are like your disciples in your inner circle with a high level of hospitality towards you. It can be people you still talk to in the past to the present that are spiritual and live obedient to God. Your brothers and sisters in residence are like your circle of integrity. It is the purpose why churches do meet and greet on Sunday and bible study services for you to build that circle of integrity among ourselves. I like to share information about my family in case you are dealing with the same situation in your families with the lack of hospitality. Hospitality is not talk. It costs something. Christians and disciples give resources, time and comfort. True hospitality moves from open doors to open hands to open lives. Hospitality costs, but isolation costs more. According to the scripture, growth was

not manufactured. It was attractive. This congregation grows because more people that walk through the doors of the congregation feel welcome, and harmony and joy is visible.

Generosity is built on willingness. We need to build our hearts around 2 Corinthians 9:7 daily to have more hospitality and show more hospitality in our life. The word cheerful giver is *hilaros* is *whr w gt* hilarious from. It describes someone basking excited to participate in the extraction that they do it with joy. We need to avoid compulsive rubble because we should not feel guilty about giving or being part of static. I believe this is how I got money from my family on some basis in the past because they did it for guilty reasons. When I got money from my family in the past, I did it out of godly hospitality. I believe Rev. Jess Jackson started to recognize my work in the community and that's why he started to invite me to more community meetings at Rainbow Push Coalition according to emails. I do not give to the poor and homeless on the streets when I have the money because I don't feel guilty. I give because I am a cheerful giver to the Lord. Hospitality is a choice if we have sovereignty. When I hold up a tightly clenched fist, it means it is under compulsion. Tell the person next to you: do not be compulsive. When you choose to give, you are proving you are a participant. Tell the person next to you: I am a participant. Trust is a bridge and generosity is a bridge to build it. I agree with what my mother always said that people should be willing to start giving back as an adult based on everything that was done to raise you during your childhood. We must treat trust as a currency of credibility. When you are generous with our time and money, it proves our motive is heaven and God's kingdom. Generosity creates predictability. The congregation has a 12-year old track record for providing assistance to the homelessness and needy. It means the church widow oil is full of oil among its flock. Hospitality eliminates fear. We are participants. We build up by showing up for each other. Trust is around in the overflow. I want you to go home and spend any time this week to identify one or many people that have been a spectator towards you this week. I want you to go to those people by voluntarily being generous to them with the word of encouragement. A cold church cannot grow a warm harvest. When the house is full of love, God fills the house with people. If we become Acts 2 people, God will perform Acts 2 miracles. Lord, make us not just a gathered church, but a generous church and community. Foundations need to start being generous with their grants to help organizations financially without regulations. The rich need to start being generous with their wealth in communities by helping the poor and homeless, not controlling and holding on to their wealth. The rich need to start helping people in the community freely not be forced to go through paying higher taxes through the government. When wealth is taken through higher taxes, the hospitality is removed from the transaction. It is a sterile and bureaucratic process. When wealth is given freely by a business leader or person in the community, it is a sacrificial gift. When the Democrats propose higher taxes for the rich in this country, their proposals lead to resentment so the wealthy can hide their wealth, not be able to pour it out. I am not saying this to oppose the Democrats or stand up to Republicans. I am speaking as an independent and as a man of God. As a nation under God and as Christians, we need to start believing in selective patronage. We do not need a tax hike to build a community. We need the wealthy to look at the stranger and decided I will invest in this person because I choose to. We do not need to wait for a vote in DC to change our zip code. If we wait for a tax code to fix us, we are still slaves to the system. When a businessman signs our covenant not because of taxation. He was moved, that is where power resides. That is voluntary hospitality. Liberty is a soil of generosity and we do not need a mandate. We believe in the freedom to build wealth and the character to share it. True extraction happens when free people choose to do better together. The government is like a spectator of family members. Politicians like to tell you how to spend your money, but they do not help you when you

are bent over. We trust giving freely, not giving by force. We need to tell the liberals that like to debate over this in politics that you believe in the power of voluntary generosity to heal your community faster and conveniently, not through legislation.

Moses did not impose a wilderness tax in Exodus 35 on the tribes. People we moved and gave so much. When people are free to give to a vision they trust, you do not need a tax collector. We need a storage unit for the overflow. David wanted to build the temple, but he knew he would not be able to finish it. He led by example to give his own gold and silver first. People in 1 Chronicles 29:5 gave wholeheartedly and willingly to the Lord. David did not demand people's gold. He demonstrated his own. Real leadership is being the first participant in generosity you ask of others. Nehemiah was a Director of Integrity for the city in ruins. Nehemiah did not ask the King of Persia to tax the citizens of Jerusalem to fix the wall. Nehemiah asked for letters of safe passage and timber from the forest. Timber from the forest was a voluntary grant. The people set their hands to good work and finish the walls in 52 days. The community is built by willing. History proves that mandates fail where hearts prevail.

*“Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.”-1 Chronicles 29:9*

- Are we just living together or living together on purpose?
- Who have we overlooked?
- Who needs to be invited?
- Who needs our generosity?

All I need you to do this week is be generous to someone and show hospitality to one or two people. If you know someone in a group home or homeless shelter that is always in hiding or acts like a taker, going to them is heavenly wisdom to share with them words of encouragement. I am not talking about going to people to buy friendship like trying to trade something to be friends with them.

This is the rubble mindset that is all about envy and earthly wisdom. This is the same type of rubble and static you and hear going on at homeless shelters today just like you are in public among people. Envy people with a job and thy hat. Envy people see people with a job or careers and they study. Envy people treat success like a limited supply. Envious people wait for a handout while mocking the other person. I have walked the floors of homeless shelters since 2011 in and out of homeless shelters and I see men and women sitting in the same rubble and two different spirits. I have seen envy. I have seen people with nothing going on for themselves and have everything to say to the person trying to get back on their feet. That is the spirit of a spectator. That is the same spirit of the family members who watched me grieve but did not help me build. If you hate success, you drive it away. You cannot be an angel unaware if you are a demon of envy. We are closing the book on hat. We are opening the book on the blueprint. Do not look at your neighbor's success to judge it. You need to look at other successful people's success and duplicate it. Envy is a confession of weakness.

## The Legacy Blueprint: Workforce Covenant 2026

**BETWEEN:** Lord Jesus Christ Community Baptist Church

**AND:**

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(The Partner Organization)

### I. Preamble (The Moral Ground)

This Covenant is established to move beyond systematic rubble and build a palace of Productivity. We recognize that a healthy community requires an active economic opportunities between local businesses and the residents who support them.

### II. The Members Commitment (The Labor)

Senior Pastor hereby pledges to provide:

- **Vetted Talent:** Workers trained in the “Doing Better” philosophy of personal integrity and discipline.
- **Volunteer-to-Work Program:** A pipeline of dedicated individuals who have proven their work ethic through community service.
- **Conflict Resolution:** A direct link to the church to resolve any static in performance or conduct.

### III. The Partner's Commitment (The Party)

The partner business or organization hereby pledges to:

- **The 20% course:** Commit to a goal of filling at least 20% of open positions with qualified members and people in the community from the 13,400 movement.

- **Living Wage Protocol:** Ensure all positions offered provide a sovereign wage that allows the worker to extract themselves from debt.
- **The Transparency Audit:** Provide quarterly stats on people hiring, retention and promotion.

#### **IV. The Selective Patronage Clause**

The 13,400 members and people in the community movement agreed to prioritize the use of its collective purchasing power at businesses that uphold this Covenant.

This is not a protest. It is a partnership. We like to bring you the best workers in local communities. We are helping you “Do better” too.

**Sign this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026**